(e) if so, what was this amount and when it was paid; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and by when this payment will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans for modernization of tentatively selected 25 non-metro airports.

(b) No, Sir. However, in line with the policy for upgrading airport infrastructure on regular basis at various airports, AAI has plans to extend runway to 7500 ft at Raipur to make it suitable for operation of A-320 type of aircraft and to increase the parking capacity of existing apron.

(c) to (f) In a meeting held on 17th June, 2002 between AAI and the State Government officials, the Government of Chhattisgarh had agreed to provide the required land to AAI free of cost and free from all encumberances. Accordingly, the District Collector, Raipur was requested on 5th January, 2004 to acquire and hand over 50.17 acres of land including 22.22 acres of private land to AAI. The required 50.17 acres of land acquired by the Government of Chhattisgarh under emergency clause of Land Acquisition Act, has already been handed over to AAI free of cost on 12th July, 2004.

Allocation of gas from Tapti Gas Field

*14. DR. A.K. PATEL:
PROF. ALKABALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the additional development plan for allocation of gas from Tapti Gas Field has been finalized;

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented; and

(c) the details of Government stand on the State Government of Gujarat's request for allcoation of 3.65 MMSCMD gas for the Pipavav Power project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Operating Committee of the Tapti Gas field has submitted a development plan for the production of additional gas

from the mid and south Tapti fields to the Management Committee (MC) of the field. The plan would be implemented after approval by MC.

(c) On the request of the State Government of Gujarat, an "in principle" allocation of natural gas to the extent of 2.25 Million Standard Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD) was made for the power project at Pi^. avav in Gujarat. The allocation is subject to the additional development of the field for which the development plan has now been submitted. However, the JV is allowed direct marketing of the additional gas from the Tapti field at market-related prices in terms of the Production Sharing Contract. Therefore, the Pipavav project developers have been asked to directly approach the JV concerned to tie-up the gas required for their proposed project. The JV have been asked to give priority in supplies to units that have been given "in principle" allocations.

Promotion of Bio-diesel

†*15. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a policy decision on the proposal to propagate the use of bio-diesel as a fuel of the future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) With a view to propagating and promoting the increased use of bio-diesel in transport fuel, bio-diesel is being produced mainly on a pilot scale and field trials are being conducted by oil marketing companies to establish efficacy of bio-diesel and diesel blend in the transport sector. The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with a special focus on the plantation of Jatropha curcas. The Ministry of Rural Development has been made the nodal Ministry for the National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has recently got a Detailed Project Report prepared by The Energy and Research Institute (TERI).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.